proposes to impart vocational training to its students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): The Indira Gandhi National Open University Act came into force on September 20, 1985. The preparation of the details of the academic programmes, the production of material for use of students and the details of the methodologies for offering different programmes have not yet been finalised.

Computerisation of reservation for the South-East bound trains

463. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to computerise passenger reservation for the South-east bound trains before 31st December, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government contemplate to introduce the system for computerisation of passenger reservation in other Railways; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) It is proposed to computerise all reservations of berths and seats on trains originating and passing through Delhi area in two phases. In the first phase, all reservations done in New Delhi will be covered. The implementation of this phase is in progress and is likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year. To allow the system to stabilise fully as also for staff to get accustomed to the new system, implementation of the scheme is being progressed in stages, taking up one or two trains at a time and gradually adding more functions on the computer. Computerisation of second class reservations on two South-bound trains, G. T. Express and Tamil Nadu Express. was taken up first on an experimental basis in October, 1985 and this is now gradually getting stabilised.

(c) and (d) After the system is successfully established at Delhi, similar systems will be set up at other metropolitan cities also. It is proposed to include this work in the 1986-87 Works Programme.

Iodine deficiency in India

464. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 120 million Indians suffer from Iodine deficiency which impairs brain development,saps energy and hampers all the developmental efforts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Iodine deficiency cuts at very root of the potential for development of the people and thus leads to perpetual backwardness of region;

(c) whether Government have identified iodine deficient regions in the country; and if so, what are the details in regard thereto; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the eradication of iodine deficiency in the concerned areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In cases of severe deficiency there can be mental retardation.

(c) Yes, Sir. Goitre is prevalent in most parts of the country. (Details are given in the Statement) (*See below*).

(d) Government have proposed complete iodisation of all in the country in a phased manner during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans.

Statement

Areas identified as Goitre-endemic in various States:

Himachal Pradesh:

1. Sirmor
2. Mandi
3. Bilaspur
4. Mahasu
5. Kangra